

# Buckskin Bulletin

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NEWSLETTER OF WESTERNERS INTERNATIONAL  
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## Student Corral Is Formed

The Home Ranch is announcing the formation of a student corral at **Western State College of Colorado**, Gunnison. This is an idea we are hoping will catch on at other colleges and universities and will supply our organization with some young members who will move on to membership in our already established corrals and posses as these students exit academic life and move into the adult working world.

The person who has taken hold of this new project and is working hard on it is Home Ranch newby, **Rodney Goddard**.

"The name of this new group is the **West Elk Wranglers**. They have officers, they have meetings, well in college fashion at odd hours, and they have established a profile around campus," said Goddard.

They also have found a faculty sponsor.

"There is a ceremony planned this April establishing the Western Elk Wranglers into our happy family of Westerners," he said, adding he will be driving to Colorado to participate.

"Are you curious to see the

future? Come to Denver this October for the Western History Association meeting where we hope the new group will be in high profile, helping to man the WI booth," he said, adding he hopes to be able to give news of other student groups before long.

That this idea even came about can be attributed to the WI web site which was found last year by a couple of members of a Rodeo Club at Western State. They sent a letter to the home ranch inquiring about the possibility of becoming a member group of WI.

The members of the Rodeo

Club were mostly "farm and ranch kids," now too old to be rodeo participants, but still were interested in rodeos, the west and its history.

"We are hoping there are some WI members who could be useful in finding colleges to organize and maybe a university town posse could even adopt a student posse as a sustaining project," said Goddard.

So, WI members, we have had conversations from time to time in the past about ways to attract new, younger members to our organization. This just might be the way to accomplish that. Let us know what you think.

### Living Legend Misnamed in Article

Apologies are extended to **Bob Ihsen** who was no doubt startled to discover he had been renamed Paul Ihsen in the last copy of the *Buckskin Bulletin*.

Be assured his name is **Bob** as was said in the story itself. Unfortunately the first name of the Westerner who wrote the Living Legend article, Paul McClure, was attached to Bob's last name in the headline.

While the mistake was made originally by Your Editor she feels the blame should be shared with others—in particular with the four other people who read the bulletin before publication looking for mistakes. Apparently five of us looking for errors is not enough so we may have to add more "editors" to our list. Again, we are sorry, **Bob**.

# From the WI Chairman

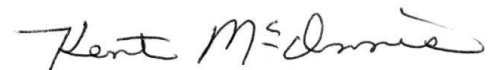
So now that we all know that **dues to the Home Ranch are \$5 per person**, we might try to justify why we raised dues three years ago to the price of a once a year cup of Starbucks coffee. For starters, we no longer have to borrow money to operate. Among the many advantages to operating affordably, we are now able to concentrate on our

future. For most organizations, as time passes, the average age of membership increases. With money no longer a worry, we Westerners can concentrate on bringing a younger crowd in to the fold.

By the time you read this we will have inaugurated the first faculty-sponsored college chapter of Westerners in our history. This came about

because one group of college students wrote us asking for our help. They found us on our Westerners website. Contrary to their first inclination, the **West Elk Wranglers** of Western State College of Colorado in Gunnison are helping us. We already have feelers out to at least two other universities who are interested in the concept of student chapters. We welcome your own sponsorship of your local college or university.

A younger crowd, better than we, knows how to attract new members. This is how organizations grow in the 21st Century.



## Kansas Corral Is on the Move

The **Kansas Corral** is a group that travels around the state for meetings. In April they met in Parsons and the month before that in Abilene.

They generally meet on a Saturday and, while they sometimes have a traditional meeting with speaker, they also meet frequently for lunch and a tour of an interesting place in the state.

The group's paper files from the 1970s have been accepted into manuscript collection of the **Kansas Historical Society**. Many of our member groups are preserving files in this way.

## Notes from the Editor

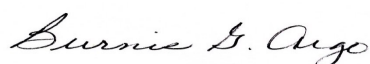
We were especially interested in the article by **Daryl Morrison** (Part I begins on page 4) for two reasons. One is that many newer members of the corrals and posses of Westerners may not be aware that the organization began as a "male only" group (with one or two exceptions) and since this is part of our history it should be brought up from time to time. And, two, your editor used to be a member of the **Oklahoma City Womens Posse**, talked about in the article.

Those were strange times. Men and women arrived together, enjoyed a drink, some visiting, ate dinner and then the men went to one meeting space and the women to another. It was an awful waste of programs, we always thought, two speakers when one would do, and also a little silly since the members of both

groups were mostly related. We had married couples, siblings, cousins, parents, uncles, aunts and so on. If not related in that way then people who worked together, knew each other socially but most of all—all interested in the same subject.

Occasionally members of the **Indian Territory Posse** would suggest taking in women—which was always voted down. Once the Women's Posse suggested letting men in. To the shock of many of us—this was voted down, too!! So it wasn't just the men who were being narrow-minded.

How was this solved? Some forward-thinkers moved to town—**David** and **Sue Dary**—and joined with **Don Green** and through their efforts the **Chisholm Trail Corral** was born—a group for both sexes. A happy day.



# Bisbee Corral Has Active Spring

By Douglas W. Hocking

There's a new sheriff in town, **Matt Greenway**, not to imply anything was wrong with the old one and the only active corral in Cochise County is off to the start of a great year.

On February 2, 2012, renowned archaeologist **Deni Seymour** spoke to the Corral about the 1698 Battle of Santa Cruz de Gaybanipitea. Dr. Seymour is exploring an area of historical archaeology that has been all but excluded by definitions that embrace only European civilizations. She works on native peoples in the post contact era and in the process she is developing new paradigms and frameworks for discussion. The Battle of Santa Cruz wasn't witnessed by Father Kino but he was at the location a few weeks later and left a record of people—the Sobaipuri, their town and the battle. She had to develop templates for what a Sobaipuri town and what a battlefield would look like.

The Sobaipuri, who lived along the San Pedro, Babocomari and Santa Cruz Rivers in south central Arizona after the prehistoric Hohokam and before 1930, were almost lost to history. They were River Pima who farmed and irrigated. After 1930, they merged with the Tohono O'odham, the De-



Dr. Deni Seymour

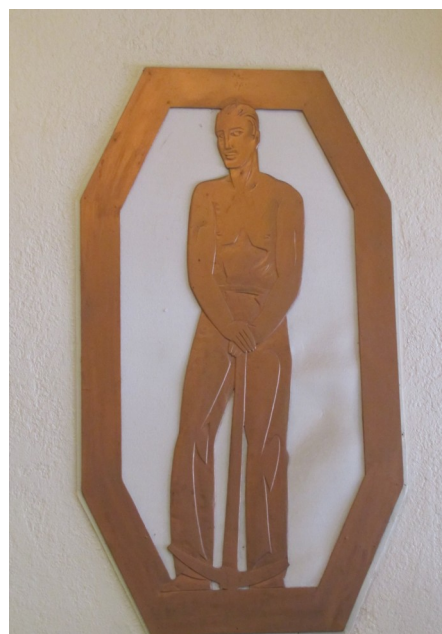
sert Pima, and are now known as the people of Walk, San Xavier del Bac. They were first contacted in 1539 by Fray Marcos de Niza and were avoided by Coronado, ministered to by Padre Kino.

In 1698, 300 Apache and members of other mobile groups from as far away as the El Paso Region attacked Santa Cruz bringing their women and children to help carry away the spoils. The attack was in retaliation for assistance the Sobaipuri had rendered to the Spanish against the Apache. The town was burned and the defenders retreated to the adobe chapel holding the Apache at bay. Unbeknownst to the Apache, an expedition was gathering at neighboring Quiburi and 300 Sobaipuri warriors counterattacked. Pursued as far as the Dragoon

Mountains 16 miles away, the attackers lost so many of their people that some of the groups—Jocome, Jano Mansos, disappeared from history and remnants of the particular band of Apaches involved merged with the Sobaipuri.

On February 4, starting a pattern of getting out into the Community more often, **Sheriff Matt** led the Corral on a visit to Bisbee's **Lyric Theater**. The Lyric opened in 1916 as a legitimate theater where stars such as Houdini played. The tracks of the trolley that stopped right out front are still visible in Lyric Plaza. Later the theater was converted into a movie house owned by a Greek family, the Diamos. In the 1930s, artist Ted DeGrazia married into the

*(Continued on Page 4)*



Art by Ted DeGrazia can be seen at Bisbee's Lyric Theater.

# Some WI History — Part I

(Editor's Note: Those new to WI may not know that 'in the beginning' the Posses and Corrals were all male in membership. Following is the story of the woman who broke that barrier in her Corral as she shared it at the 50th Anniversary of the Stockton Corral, now, unfortunately, in Dry Camp.

**By Ms Daryl Morrison**

It is an honor to be asked to speak at and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the **Stockton Corral** of Westerners. The Westerners was the creation of a number of

serious western history buffs. **Leland D. Case**, newspaperman and editor of *Together*, publication of Rotary International, was instrumental in forming Friends of the Middle Border, a group studying the region around South Dakota. Case and **Elmo Scott Watson**, professor of journalism, then met to form a club with all of "The West" as its field of interest, founding the Westerners in

Chicago in 1944.

Within a year there were Westerner groups all over with corrals and posses found in **Denver, St. Louis, Los Angeles, New York, Tucson, the Black Hills, Washington** and **Kansas City**. In 1964 the Westerners jumped the Atlantic Ocean as the **English Westerners Society** was formed and an international organization began.

The Westerners Foundation was begun by **Philip A. Danielson** of Chicago and a trustee of the College of the Pacific (now University of the Pacific), **Dr. Robert E. Burns**, president of the college; Case and **Dr. Reginald R. Stuart**. Case, now in Stockton, became the executive secretary of the **Westerners Foundation**. The foundation grew out of a need to facilitate the publication of a book, *This is the West*. The foundation planned to publish books and *The Buckskin Bulletin* under the names of the "College of the Pacific Press." Danielson put up \$10,000 to get the foundation started and it was to be headquartered in Stockton.

With Case, Stuart, **R. Coke Wood** and others in Stockton, it was only natural that a Stockton Corral of Westerners would soon be created. The corral was first

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## Corral Shares Programs

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family and managed the theater. His artwork is still evident on the walls. Corral member Christine Rhodes helped to stage one of the last live shows at the Lyric handling the lighting. She recalled that teenagers were not allowed in the balcony and the manager patrolled the aisles with a flashlight making sure everyone was behaving. Christine also remembered it was impossible to heat the 900 seat auditorium and in the winter you had to dress warmly. During its final active days as a movie house in the 1980s, the manager collected tickets, started the movie, came down to the lobby to make popcorn, sold it at intermission and then started the movie again. Today the Lyric is home to a real estate office.

On March 1, Jim Turner showed the corral slides from his pictorial history *Arizona: A Celebration of the Grand Canyon State*, which is available on Amazon.com. Most of the photos and pictures included have never been published anywhere before. At the same meeting Corral member Doug Hocking was asked to tell about the tin cans the Sheriff had brought. The cans are a passion with Doug as he uses them to date 10th century sites. The hole-in-top, the soldered seams and the soldered vent are all clues to the age of the can and to what people were eating and where they were getting it.

Preliminary plans are being made for our next field adventure.





The **Santa Catalina Corral**, Tucson, AZ, began the new year with a potluck. Corral officers pictured, l to r, are **Max Freeman**, Chief Wrangler; **Judy Bois**, Sheriff; **Marilyn McKee**, Recorder of Marks & Brands; **Reese Ewen**, Memberships; **Jim Feisley**, Keeper of the Chips. In April the group planned a trip to Sonoita, AZ, to hear Bruce Andee play and sing old Western songs and to tour the Bowman and Stadling Museum and the Kief-Joshua winery. Photo and information from **Harold Ahlich**.

## 50th Year To be Noted By IT Posse

This summer the **Indian Territory Posse** of Oklahoma Westerners will celebrate a half-century of gatherings dedicated to preserving the heritage of the west. Through the initiative of **Bob Cunningham**, **John Hinkle** and **Glenn Shirley** of Stillwater and **Dean Krakel**, **Paul Rossi** and **Martin Wenger** of Tulsa, an organizational meeting was held April 6, 1962, followed by the inaugural meeting on June 1 at the Gilcrease Institute, Tulsa.

By 1967 the list of 52 active members was a virtual "who's who" of the Oklahoma historical and artistic communities during that era.

Charter membership of 21 grew quickly through the summer and September 7, 1962, the group met in the Hinkle home in Stillwater for the first true style meeting with a paper being presented. Speaker was western author **Fred Grove** who told how one man, a Quaker Indian agent named **Lawrie Tatum**, was instrumental in turning the tide of relations between the red man and white in the area during the middle 1870s, according to an article in the *Stillwater News Press*.

Originally called the **Oklahoma Westerners**, the Posse's name was changed in 1964.

## Trailing the West

Thinking about a trip? Westerner **Shebby Lee** has several possibilities through her tour group which would be of special interest to other Westerners as part of her Vanishing Trails tours.

August 3 through 18 is **Lewis & Clark Trail**, a trip tracing the route of the Corps of Discovery from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. The trip features living history, speakers, special events, authentic meals visits to various interpretive centers and historic sites and boat rides on the Missouri River.

**Buffalo Roundup** will be September 22-27 at Custer State Park.

This trip includes visits to the Crazy Horse Memorial, Mount Rushmore, Deadwood and Badlands National Park.

For more information on these trips and others contact by mail, P.O. Box 1032, Rapid City, SD; phone toll free 800/888-8306 or e-mail [info@shebbyleetours.com](mailto:info@shebbyleetours.com). Or visit the website at: [www.shebbyleetours.com](http://www.shebbyleetours.com).

### Speaker is Named

The **Pine Ridge Corral**, Chadron, NE, heard a program titled "The Humorous Side of Military Life" in April. Speaker was corral member **Ed Bieganski**.

# Some History of Westerners is Told

(Continued from Page 4)

conceived on November 13, 1958. Sixteen men interested in western history laid the framework for the establishment of a corral patterned after the Chicago Westerners. On January 8, 1959, the Corral was organized and chartered as the XIV Member of Westerners International. Stockton was the second Westerners Corral in California following Los Angeles. The Westerners International website now lists 17 corrals in California.

An article from *Commerce Magazine* August 1964, "Chicagoans Ride Trails of the Old West" discusses who can be a Westerner. "Anyone can be a Westerner—bankers, bakers, editors, educators. Members must have one prime avocation—*"running to earth"* factual Western American history. There is no room for 'joiners.' There must be a sincere interest in the West."

The Stockton Corral began publishing the *Far Westerner*, a quarterly publication, with Volume 1, No. 1, in 1960 and the *Valley Trails*, a hard-bound collection of articles with Volume 1 in 1966. Annual events included the auction as a fundraiser, the October "Old Timers Night" in which the members reminisced about the good old days and their experiences, the January installation and the Buffalo Feed, as well an annual outing.

I would like to now tell you about my history with Westerners. My membership in Westerners began with the **Oklahoma Women's Posse** in the mid-1970s I was the Western History Collections librarian at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. The Corral, which met in Oklahoma City, was one of two separate organizations, a men's corral, the **Indian Territory Posse**, and the women's group formed in response to not being permitted to join the men's group. However, the women's group had just as many prestigious western history authors including **Allice Marriott, Angie Debo, Bernice Crockett** and others. There also were a number of school teachers who were interested in the state's history. The Women's Posse newsletter was called FLO which stood for "For Ladies Only." I heard at that time that there was a Wyoming or Montana women's group that rode horses and appeared in parades.

The Oklahoma City groups' meetings occurred in the same restaurant on the same night. We would gather together in the big room for general discussion, drinks and dinner and when the meetings were called to order the men and women divided to go to their own meetings, one each side of a soft cover screen dividing the room, the women's side being much smaller. Some nights I felt

like I was in an Orthodox synagogue.

The year I was Deputy Sheriff, I had a Native American speaker show her spectacular handmade collection of Indian women dolls. Each cloth doll was identical so that one would focus on the dress. Each had a miniature, intricate costume showing how each tribe had a different dress, moccasin and hair style. That night the men were peaking around the curtain, because they were more interested in the women's program than their own. The collection of dolls was later given to the Smithsonian Institution. In 1985 when I was to become incoming Sheriff, I decided after 10 years in Oklahoma to move west to learn another state's history and became the librarian at what was then the Holt-Western Research Center.

My husband stayed behind to sell the house and I moved with two kids, ages 3 and 5, to Stockton to begin my new job. When my husband indicated he could tie a mattress to the top of the van, I had to put my foot down and say, "NO. I am not moving to California with Oklahoma license plates and mattress on top of the car!"

I learned with some dismay that I was moving to a city where women could not join the local Corral and there was no women's group.

**(Continued Next Issue)**



# Omaha Corral Visits the “Old Corral”



*Omaha Corral members and guests pose outside Building I built in 1880*

**By Jeff Barnes**

**Omaha Corral** of Westerners took a “farewell tour” for its April meeting at the recently closed Omaha Quartermaster Depot, affectionately known as the “Old Corral.” The depot was originally established in Omaha in 1866 as the Government Corral, and supplied horses, mules and hard goods to the western posts. It was relocated to its present site in 1880, continuing to provide to the forts through the rest of the Indian Wars and through both World War I and II (used as an Italian POW camp during the latter.)

Reserve and National Guard troops occupied the post during the Korean and Vietnam conflicts; Reservists for the Iraq and Afghanistan wars were the most recent occupants, until a more

modern, secure post was completed in 2010.

From its beginnings in 1866 to its abandonment in March 2012 (regional headquarters of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers temporarily occupied space when offices on the Missouri River were flooded), the Omaha Quartermaster Depot is probably only behind Fort Leavenworth and Fort Riley in Kansas in terms of continuous years of service at a U.S. Army post on the Great Plains. To mark the occasion, the Omaha Corral requested and was granted special permission by the U.S. Army Reserves to tour the site before it was “mothballed.”

Col. John Bryan, facility supervisor of the post for 12 years, gave the tour to nearly 60 members of the corral and interested parties. They

were escorted around the five-acre post on a beautiful April evening, also receiving access to the two largest buildings on the post. Although existing as primarily office buildings for the last half of their existence, the century-plus buildings still show signs of their warehouse years with wooden doors through which mule-drawn wagons once passed.

The final disposition of the “Old Corral” is yet to be determined but given the maintenance costs of the buildings, the prospect of the General Services Administration selling the site is not good. The OQD is protected through the National Historic Trust from human destruction, but will likely fade away from benign neglect.

The Omaha Corral was privileged to have toured the 132-year-old post in its waning moments.

## **Prescott Corral Plans Celebration**

Members of the **Prescott Corral** will celebrate the group’s 50th anniversary May 3. Speaker for the program will be **Bruce Fee**, a WI Living Legend and charter member of Corral Number 18. He will talk about the important people and events of these 50 years. A very active corral, and one of the largest, this group has won the “Heads Up Award” seven times.

# Westerners International

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## Corral Roundup

**Huntington Westerners**, Pasadena, CA, met in April for a program by **Simon Burrow** titled "Changing Boundaries: The Evolution of the US/Mexico Border." Burrow used images of old maps to illustrate his talk.

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"Colonel Henry C. Merriam and Fort Logan, 1889-1897" was the topic of the April meeting of the **Boulder Corral**. Speaker was Jack Stokes Ballard.

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The intriguing title of the April program at the **John G. Neihardt Corral**, Columbia, MO, was "Arsenic: As a Beauty Aid and a Murder

Weapon." Speaker was **Kenneth H. Winn**.

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The program at the April meeting of the **Chicago Corral** was given by **Art Burton**. Subject of his talk was Indian Territory and Grant Johnson who worked in the IT for almost 20 years as deputy U.S. Marshal, for eight of those years serving the Federal Court at Fort Smith, AR, under Judge Isaac C. Parker. Parker often said Burton was one of the best deputies he had. A Creek freedman, after statehood Johnson was a policeman for the town of Eufaula, Oklahoma.

## BUCKSKIN BULLETIN

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Westerners International  
c/o National Cowboy & Western  
Heritage Museum  
1700 NE 63rd St.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73111  
Phone: 1-800-541-4650  
E-mail  
WIHomeRanch@gmail.com

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